

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1970

[REDACTED]
Dear Tom:

Because of the amount of detail involved,
just for your background [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], I am sending to you the attached
draft of a memorandum addressed from me to you
on Libyan Option 1(a), which was the basis of
discussion of this matter by Ambassador Palmer
and myself last Tuesday.

Sincerely,


U. Alexis Johnson

Enclosure.

Mr. Thomas H. Karamessines,
Deputy Director for Plans,
Central Intelligence Agency.

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TAB A

Washington, D.C. 20520

[REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Thomas H. Karamessines
Deputy Director for Plans
Central Intelligence Agency .

FROM: J - Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson
Under Secretary for Political Affairs

SUBJECT: Libya - [REDACTED] Option 1(a)

We have given considerable thought within the Department to Option 1(a) and come to the following conclusions.

General Considerations

1. The regime is solidly in power.
2. Its intense suspicion of all foreigners and its massive surveillance of foreign missions greatly restrict foreign maneuverability.
3. Any actions which heighten its suspicion of foreign interests can only increase the danger to those interests.
4. The activism and impetuosity of the regime will be blunted only through a doing and learning process. In the absence of these factors, outsiders have little if any capability to guide, cajole, force or trap the regime into different courses.
5. Although the regime has taken a number of steps against our interests, it would be a mistake to interpret all such steps as anti-American. If Swiss companies were producing 88% of Libya's oil, the LARG would undoubtedly still be doing just what it is now to obtain a greater return from and more control over the industry.
6. We have had some influence over the LARG through traditional diplomacy: (a) the phase-out of Wheelus has lowered LARG suspicions; (b) the rate of expulsions has greatly diminished; (c) anti-US propaganda has lessened somewhat; (d) the LARG has resisted temptations so far to accuse us of being involved in plotting; (e) we undoubtedly have more frank and useful dialogue with LARG than any other Western power, with the exception of the French.

[REDACTED]

7. The bulk of our economic interests in Libya are still intact.

8. The LARG wants continued access to our science and technology. It has welcomed several initiatives we have taken in this field and has made some itself. It has recently decided to send almost all of its overseas students to the United States.

9. We are still in business with the only radical Arab State with which we have diplomatic relations.

Against this background, I have the following specific comments on Option 1(a):

A.

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B.

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C.

1.

[Page 3 not declassified.]

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We would welcome your reactions to the foregoing considerations and your views on further actions that might be undertaken in this regard.

AF:Ambassador Palmer:sp

17 AUG 1970